

09/727,191

MS150809.01/MSFTP177US

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-22, 24-38, 40 and 41 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 18-22, 35, 36, 38, and 41 have been amended as shown at pp. 2-9 of the Reply. In addition, claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled as indicated at p. 4.

Applicant's representative acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 22, 36, 38, and 41 have been amended to recite allowable limitations from claim 17 and intervening claim 16.

The herein amendments to the claims are believed to place this application in condition for allowance. It is noted that applicants' representative does not agree with the rejections of the subject claims in view of the deficiencies of the cited art, and intends to pursue original versions of these claims in a continuation application.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

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CONCLUSION

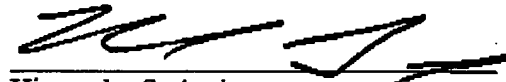
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP177US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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